

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 L-02 SP-02 EUR-10 EB-03

OMB-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /070 W
----- 085562

O R 100707Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8529

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11778

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, VS, CB, ENRG

SUBJECT: ALLEGED GVN PLANS FOR MILITARY ACTION AGAINST OIL RIG

REF: A) PHNOM PENH 12091; B) PHNOM PENH 12060

1. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH VIETNAMESE NAVY SOURCES AND HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT NO UNUSUAL NAVAL MOVEMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THAT AREA AND THAT NO ORDERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE RIG. TO DEMONSTRATE INACCURACY OF UPI STORY, WE WOULD NOTE VIETNAMESE NAVY HAS ONLY TWO DESTROYER ESCORTS AND BOTH ARE FAR FROM THAT AREA. NOR DO WE KNOW OF ANY BASIS FOR THE UPI REPORT THAT THIEU MET WITH MILITARY LEADERS LAST FRIDAY TO PLAN NAVAL AND AIR ACTION.

2. FRENCH EMBASSY HERE TELLS US THAT ELF IS PREPARING TO REMOVE RIG AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE ALTHOUGH IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DO SO UNTIL SEPTEMBER 14, TWO DAYS AFTER THE GVN DEADLINE. THIS INFORMATION IS AT VARIANCE WITH FRENCH EMBASSY PHNOM PENH STATEMENT OF ELF'S INTENTIONS REPORTED PARA 4 REF A. ANY ATTEMPT
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TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS INSTEAD OF

REMOVING THE RIG AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE COULD BE DANGEROUS.

3. WITH REGARD TO EXCHANGE OF NOTES REPORTED REF B, WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO MFA THAT FURTHER NOTES OF THIS SORT SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE, AND THAT GVN MAY WISH TO DELAY ITS REPLY TO THE GKR NOTE UNTIL AFTER THE RIG IS WITHDRAWN, WHEN IT WOULD BE EASY TO RESPOND WITH A BRIEF NOTE PROPOSING TALKS. (NEEDLESS TO SAY WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE REPORT OF OUR APPROACHES TO THE GVN APPEAR IN THE PRESS.)

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